

What to do if you find woolly distaff thistle...

- Pull, cut, or spray small infestations.
- Bag pulled material and throw in the garbage bin, not with yard debris.
- **Prevent livestock and vehicles from spreading seeds.**
- Document the site (location, photos, dates, treatments).
- Report suspect sites to the Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately.

Don't let woolly distaff thistle spread in Oregon!

Report suspect sites to

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
503-986-4621
or call

1-866-INVADER



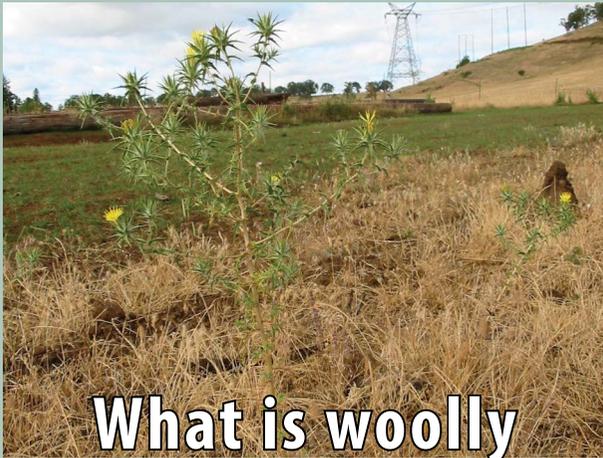
Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Plant Protection & Conservation Programs
Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem OR 97301-2532

Woolly distaff thistle

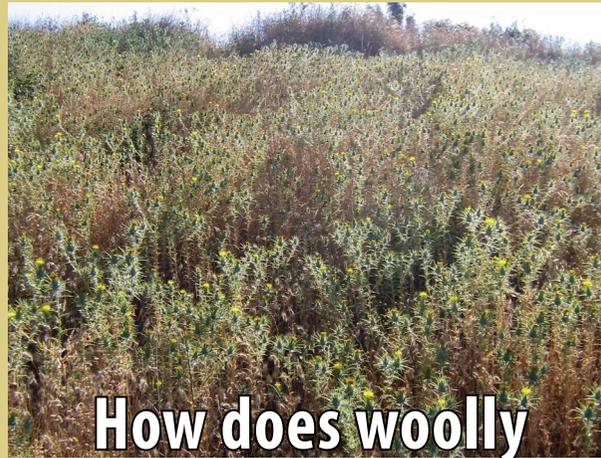
Carthamus lanatus
THISTLE ALERT!





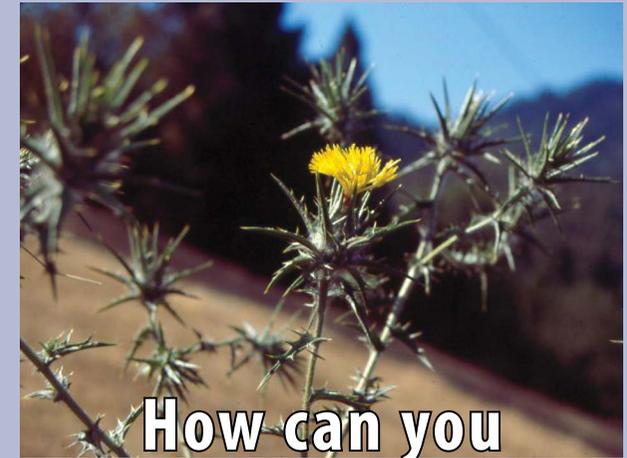
What is woolly distaff thistle?

This thistle is native to the Mediterranean region of Europe and central Europe. It is a very aggressive weed in California. It is known to occur in scattered locations in southwestern Oregon.



How does woolly distaff thistle spread?

It spreads rapidly by seed. The large seeds are not carried by wind often remaining in the flower head throughout the year allowing them to be spread by livestock and equipment.



How can you identify woolly distaff thistle?

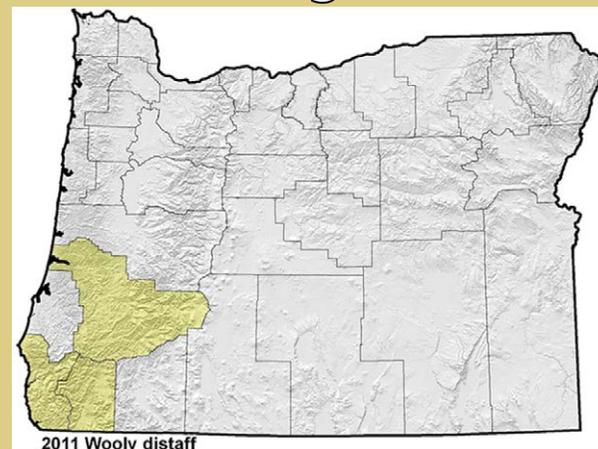
Woolly distaff is a spiny, annual thistle that flowers from late June through August. Flowers are yellow, 1 to 2 inches in diameter, at the end of each branch. It germinates in the fall to form rosettes with dark green leaves. In the spring, the stem emerges from the rosette to form a rigid, spiny plant covered with hairs on stems and especially on flowers, giving a woolly appearance. Stems reach a height of 2 to 4 feet. It is distinguished from other common thistles by its yellow flowers and spiny leaves. Sometimes confused with yellow starthistle (a knapweed). Mature plants retain their spines long after the plant dies.



What does woolly distaff thistle do?

Woolly distaff thistle is believed to be the most serious threat to range and pasture lands in Oregon. Dense stands can crowd out desirable vegetation and limit foraging by livestock and wildlife. It can also impede access to recreational sites. Once established, it is very difficult to eliminate because of its persistent seed bank.

Distribution in Oregon



2011 Woolly distaff

- Widely distributed
- Limited distribution
- Not known to occur



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds
Photo credits: Ken French, ODA.
Contact 1-866-invader for more information
5/2017